

Accordingly, what is claimed is:

1. A composite cable unit, comprising:

an optical sub-unit including at least one optical fiber;  
an electrical sub-unit including at least one electrical

conductor;

said optical and electrical sub-units being removably  
connected together by a common jacket material, said common  
jacket material being separably overcoated on the insulation  
of said at least one electrical conductor.

2. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said at least one  
optical fiber being tight buffered.

3. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said at least one  
optical fiber including at least one periodic refractive  
index therein.

4. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said at least one  
electrical conductor being part of at least one twisted pair  
of electrical conductors.

5. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said common jacket  
material including at least one flame retardant additive.

6. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said common jacket  
material including a ligature connecting said sub-units.

7. The composite cable unit of claim 6, said ligature  
including separation area.

8. The composite cable unit of claim 6, said ligature  
comprising a web with a thickness that is less than the OD  
of at least one of the sub-units.

9. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said sub-units being  
separably welded together.

10. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said common jacket  
material including at least one access recess.

11. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said common jacket  
material including at least one identification means.

12. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said at least one optical fiber comprising a multi-core optical fiber.

13. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said at least one optical fiber being generally surrounded by strength members

5 that de-couple said optical fibers from said common jacket.

14. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said cable unit being surrounded by a protective sheath.

15. The composite cable unit of claim 1, a controlled bond being formed between said common jacket material and said at  
10 least one electrical conductor.

16. The composite cable unit of claim 1, said jacket being applied in an extrusion process.

17. A fan-out cable comprising:

15 a central member having cable units therearound;

at least one of said cable units comprising a composite cable unit;

said composite cable unit including an optical sub-unit with at least one optical fiber, and an electrical sub-unit

20 including at least one electrical conductor, said optical and electrical sub-units being removably connected together by a common jacket material.

18. The fan-out cable of claim 17, said composite cable unit being connected to at least one other composite cable unit.

25 19. The fan-out cable of claim 17, said composite cable being stranded with other cable units or components about said central member.